

Goal

Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of infant and under-five child mortality rate by one third or to 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births respectively, whichever is less

» Infant and Under-Five Mortality



Result

The average global under-five mortality rate (U5MR) declined by 11 per cent globally, from 93 deaths in the early 1990s to 83 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000. Over 60 countries achieved the targeted one-third reduction.

... but

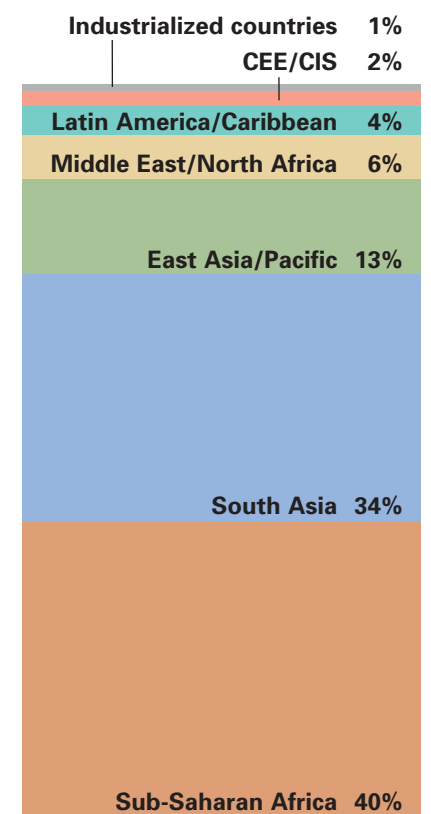
More than half of all under-five deaths are expected to occur in sub-Saharan Africa before 2010. The region's perilous situation is aggravated by the increasing number of under-five deaths due to HIV/AIDS and low immunization coverage as a result of weak health care systems.

Issue

In the early 1990s, the average global U5MR was 93 deaths to every 1,000 live births. Although the global average U5MR has declined, a significant challenge remains in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Middle East and North Africa regions, where U5MR is 175, 100 and 64 respectively. Malnutrition is associated with half of all under-five deaths and a reduction of this is central to decreasing under-five mortality.

WHERE MOST UNDER-FIVES DIE

Under-five deaths by region, 2000



Nearly 11 million under-five deaths occurred in 2000, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Source: UNICEF, 2001.

Under-five mortality rate*, 2000

Sub-Saharan Africa

Seychelles	17
Mauritius	20
Cape Verde	40
Namibia	69
South Africa	70
Sao Tome and Principe	75
Comoros	82
Gabon	90
Botswana	101
Ghana	102
Congo	108
Eritrea	114
Zimbabwe	117
Kenya	120
Uganda	127
Gambia	128
Lesotho	133
Madagascar	139
Senegal	139
Swaziland	142
Togo	142
Benin	154
Cameroon	154
Equatorial Guinea	156
Tanzania	165
Côte d'Ivoire	173
Ethiopia	174
Guinea	175
Regional average	175
Central African Rep.	180
Mauritania	183
Nigeria	184
Rwanda	187
Malawi	188
Burundi	190
Burkina Faso	198
Chad	198
Mozambique	200
Zambia	202
Congo, Dem. Rep.	207
Guinea-Bissau	215
Somalia	225
Mali	233
Liberia	235
Niger	270
Angola	295
Sierra Leone	316

Latin America/Caribbean

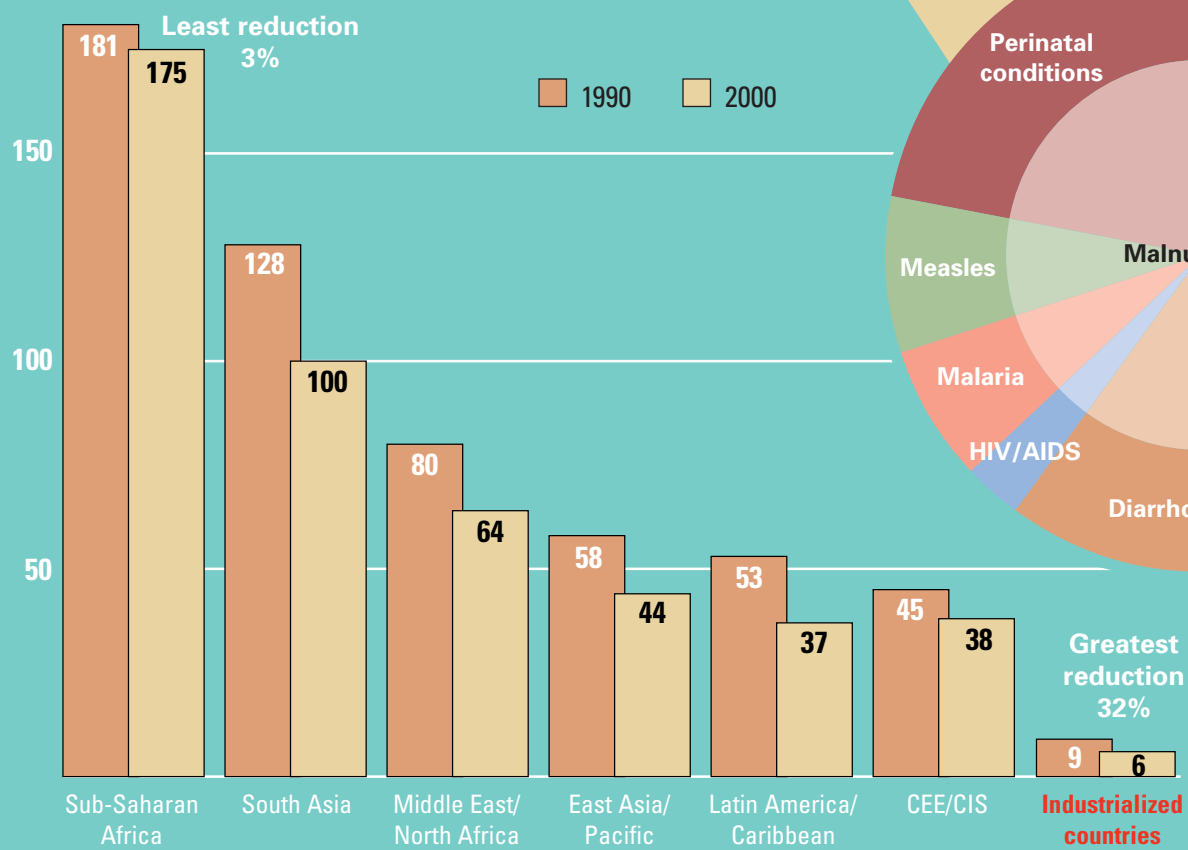
Cuba	9
Chile	12
Costa Rica	12
Barbados	14
Antigua and Barbuda	15
Dominica	16
Uruguay	17
Bahamas	18
Saint Lucia	19
Jamaica	20
Trinidad and Tobago	20
Argentina	21
Venezuela	23
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25
Saint Vincent/Grenadines	25
Grenada	26
Panama	26
Colombia	30
Mexico	30
Paraguay	31
Ecuador	32
Suriname	33
Regional average	37
Brazil	38
El Salvador	40
Honduras	40
Belize	41
Nicaragua	45
Dominican Rep.	48
Peru	50
Guatemala	59
Guyana	74
Bolivia	80
Haiti	125

South Asia

Sri Lanka	19
Maldives	80
Bangladesh	82
India	96
Bhutan	100
Nepal	100
Regional average	100
Pakistan	110
Afghanistan	257

Big differences in child mortality rate changes

Under-five mortality rate by region

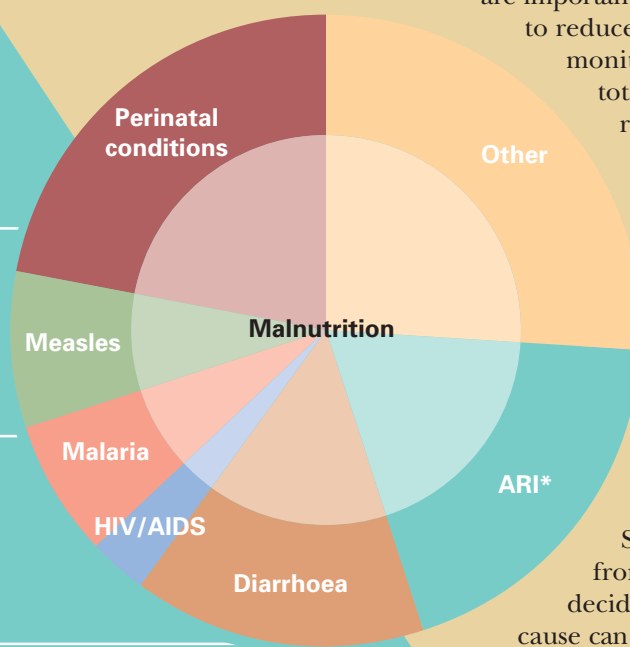


Least improvement in region with highest U5MR and greatest improvement in region with lowest U5MR.

Source: UNICEF, 2001.

Important data, but questions remain

Under-five deaths by cause, 1999



Estimates of under-five deaths by cause are important for targeting interventions to reduce child mortality and to monitor progress. Although the total of under-five deaths is relatively well known, the proportion related to each cause is much more uncertain and hence no numbers are used on the chart. There are several reasons for this. First, vital registration systems that provide cause-of-death data in industrialized countries do not exist in most developing countries. Second, children often die from multiple causes, and deciding which is the primary cause can be difficult. In addition, malnutrition is associated with half of all deaths. Third, small-scale studies must be used to estimate the cause for the majority of under-five deaths. Most of these studies refer to the first half of the 1990s and earlier, and hence provide no data on changes in the last half of the decade. As an example of the uncertainty, estimates for measles deaths vary between 1 per cent and 8 per cent.

*Acute respiratory infection.

Source: WHO, 2000.

East Asia/Pacific

Singapore	4
Korea, Rep.	5
Brunei Darussalam	7
Malaysia	9
Tonga	21
Fiji	22
Cook Islands	24
Micronesia, Fed. States	24
Solomon Islands	25
Samoa	26
Palau	29
Thailand	29
Korea, Dem. People's Rep.	30
Nauru	30
Viet Nam	39
China	40
Philippines	40
Vanuatu	44
Regional average	44
Indonesia	48
Tuvalu	53
Marshall Islands	68
Kiribati	70
Mongolia	78
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	105
Myanmar	110
Papua New Guinea	112
Cambodia	135
East Timor	No data
Niue	No data

CEE/CIS[†]

Czech Rep.	5
Croatia	9
Hungary	9
Slovakia	9
Poland	10
Bulgaria	16
Bosnia and Herzegovina	18
Belarus	20
Yugoslavia	20
Estonia	21
Latvia	21
Lithuania	21
Ukraine	21
Romania	22
Russian Federation	22
TFYR Macedonia ^{††}	26
Georgia	29
Armenia	30
Albania	31
Moldova, Rep.	33
Regional average	38
Turkey	45
Kyrgyzstan	63
Uzbekistan	67
Turkmenistan	70
Tajikistan	73
Kazakhstan	75
Azerbaijan	105

Middle East/North Africa

Cyprus	7
United Arab Emirates	9
Kuwait	10
Oman	14
Bahrain	16
Qatar	16
Libya	20
Occupied Palestinian Territory	25
Tunisia	28
Saudi Arabia	29
Syria	29
Lebanon	32
Jordan	34
Egypt	43
Iran	44
Morocco	46
Regional average	64
Algeria	65
Sudan	108
Yemen	117
Iraq	130
Djibouti	146
World average	83
Developing countries' average	91

Industrialized countries

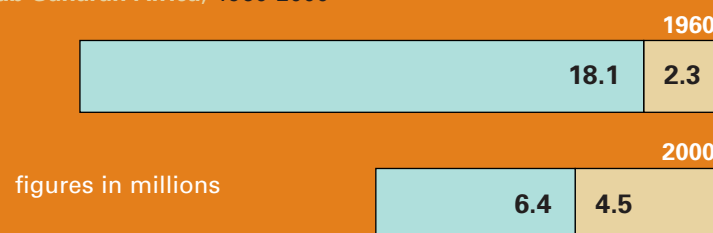
Iceland	4
Japan	4
Norway	4
Sweden	4
Switzerland	4
Austria	5
Denmark	5
Finland	5
France	5
Germany	5
Luxembourg	5
Monaco	5
Netherlands	5
Slovenia	5
Spain	5
Australia	6
Belgium	6
Canada	6
Greece	6
Ireland	6
Israel	6
Italy	6
Malta	6
New Zealand	6
Portugal	6
San Marino	6
United Kingdom	6
Regional average	6
Andorra	7
United States	8
Liechtenstein	11
Holy See	No data

*The under-five mortality rate is the probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age per 1,000 live births. For industrialized countries, the data come from vital registration systems; for many other countries, where the majority of under-five deaths occur, the data are derived from censuses and household surveys.

Source: UNICEF, 2001.

Deaths drop by half globally, but double in Africa

Under-five deaths in the **World** (excluding sub-Saharan Africa) and **Sub-Saharan Africa**, 1960-2000



Global under-five deaths over the last four decades have fallen from 20.4 million to 10.9 million annually. During this time deaths in sub-Saharan Africa almost doubled from 2.3 million to 4.5 million annually.

Source: UNICEF, 2001.

[†]Throughout this report, CEE/CIS includes the Baltic States.

^{††}Throughout this report, TFYR Macedonia refers to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.